



Disaster unit gets mock workout

Bill Mullican of Laurel and David Rogers of Greenville enjoy the fruits (and chicken and dumplings) of their labors during a mock disaster staged to teach the work of the Mississippi Baptist Mobile Disaster Unit to new volunteers and as review for old hands. The mockup took place at Springdale Baptist

Church in October near the entrance to the Central Hills Baptist Retreat where the unit is housed. Disaster relief director, Paul Harrell, who directs Brotherhood work for Mississippi Baptists, led in the mock disaster. The disaster relief unit is operated by the Brotherhood Department.

Baptist hospital site of mafia-styled killing

By Craig Bird

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia (BP)—A patient being treated for gunshot wounds was murdered in his bed at Baptist Hospital in what police think is the result of a feud among elements of organized crime.

"About 9 p.m. Oct. 16 there were some shots fired outside the hospital and when police went to investigate the diversion, three men entered the hospital, went to patient's second floor room and shot him 11 times," said Jerrell Ballard, a Southern Baptist medical missionary.

The victim's sister and another visitor were in the room but were not harmed by the gunmen. In the ensuing confusion the three men escaped, Ballard said.

Less than 48 hours later, three men riding in a car near the hospital were killed by gunmen who pulled alongside them in a jeep. Police think the two incidents are related and also feel the Oct. 16 shooting was a "finishing off"

of the earlier attempt that put the man in the hospital.

Ballard, who has been in Colombia for 10 years, thinks the incident will have an effect on Baptist Hospital but he doesn't think Baptist mission work will suffer.

"The initial reaction seems to be 'what kind of people are you harboring in that hospital' and I'm sure people who are planning non-emergency surgery will look somewhere else for awhile," Ballard admitted. "But our doors are open to anyone who needs care and, fortunately, the local papers have pointed out the victim was a 'bad man' who was involved in criminal activities. There have been several inci-

dents of violence lately but no innocent people have been involved and police think the local mafia is quarreling internally."

This is the second time in two years a patient at Baptist Hospital has been the target of violence. In November 1980, a hand grenade was thrown into the second floor room, injuring a patient who was under police guard for his involvement in a family killing.

Bad luck-bed
Ironically, the same hospital bed was involved in both incidents. "The bed rail still had scars from the shrapnel from the hand grenade and now it has bullet holes in it," Ballard said. (Continued on page 2)

An open letter to Baptists from the president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention

The annual meeting of the State Convention is, by its very nature, an exciting time! It affords an excellent opportunity for those attending to renew old relationships and to develop new ones. We should never minimize the richness of the fellowship which is experienced at times like this.

However, the meeting also provides us with opportunities to assess the work of our state convention. During those three days we will look at where we have been and participate in charting the course for the future.

Occasionally we need to take a look at ourselves and measure our progress. We have this opportunity November 8-10. Bold Mission Thrust established some goals toward which we are moving, and we need to see where we are in relation to these goals.

The order of business committee has put together an outstanding program which will challenge all of us during those days. Some high moments of inspiration are anticipated through the Bible Treasures, the sermons, and the music.

However, we need to remember that the Primary purpose of this gathering

of Mississippi Baptists is to transact the business of our convention. We will act upon some recommendations from the Convention Board, adopt a budget, take action upon a number of resolutions, and take care of other business matters. You will want to be a part of this.

In all our actions, we should keep before us the theme of our Convention which is, "As you go . . . make disciples." After all, everything we do must serve to undergird this primary task that is ours as Mississippi Baptists.

Let me encourage every church to have its full quota of messengers elected and present at the Convention. We have a great fellowship among Mississippi Baptists, and I am proud to be serving at such a strategic time in our history.

Join with me in praying that our coming together November 8-10 will result in a deeper commitment on the part of all of us to fulfill the Great Commission.

James F. Yates
President
Mississippi Baptist Convention

International women's leader to be speaker

The new president of the North American Baptist Women's Union will be the speaker at two programs in Mississippi observing Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer. She is Mrs. Ralph (Dorothy) Neal of Don Mills, Ontario, Canada.

The first of the two programs will be Oct. 31 at First Church, Jackson, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. The second program will be Nov. 1 at First Church, Laurel, beginning at 7 p.m.

The Jackson program will be sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Women's Missionary Union. The planning coordinator is Marilyn Hopkins, consultant for Baptist Young Women for the WMU. Marjean Patterson is Miss. (Continued on page 2)

Growth qualities

Warmth, vision, visitation

By Linda Lawson

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)—The atmosphere is warm and friendly and members relish the opportunity to welcome and try to meet the needs of each person who comes their way in nine of the fastest growing churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

These churches are defying the stereotype that a person can get lost among the multitudes and organizational machinery of a large church, the director of the church development department of the Maryland Baptist Convention learned.

Charles Barnes, a 13-year veteran of state convention work, visited nine churches in Florida, Texas, North Carolina, and Mississippi this year "to get the feel and the spirit of what is happening in growing churches." He discovered effective organization and trained leaders are resulting in outreach and evangelism with a personal touch.

The churches Barnes visited included First, Fort Lauderdale, and First and College Park, Orlando, Fla.; Prestonwood, Dallas; First, Garland; First, Katy; and Sagemont, Houston; all in Texas; Calvary, Winston-Salem, N. C.; and First, Jackson, Miss.

All have more than 1,500 members and all are experiencing rapid growth.

While the programs of the church differed widely, Barnes found in each a "high degree of excitement, joy and celebration in the worship services. People are excited about what God is doing in their church," he said.

He cited the enthusiasm of volunteer parking lot attendants at a downtown church which has two Sunday Schools and three morning worship services.

Noting most are averaging 200-300 visitors per Sunday, Barnes said all are finding ways "to meet, greet and warmly receive visitors and new members into the fellowship."

At the same time some form of lay witness training is an important part of the outreach and evangelism programs with several hundred persons involved at all times.

While Barnes said no pressure is put on visitors to join the church or make a profession of faith, printed materials such as brochures and bulletins carefully explained how to enroll in Sunday School and how to join the church.

Barnes also gave high marks to the educational, organizational, and promotional efforts of the churches. For example, he noted, "When they have a spectacular event it is spectacular with every detail cared for."

Based on his observations Barnes listed nine essentials for growth, with concern for individual needs of members and visitors topping the list.

For example, after a flood, representatives of one church were on hand before the insurance companies to provide funds and manpower to aid the victims.

Other factors included Sunday School as the foundation of the church program; visitation, growth, and evangelism magnified in all activities

and materials; a staff committed to the pastor and the church and a highly motivated pastor who feels "he is right where God wants him."

He also cited quality Bible study, good fellowship, effective planning and adequate facilities.

Acknowledging most churches lack the money and resources of the nine churches he visited, Barnes nevertheless emphasized churches of any size can take positive steps to improve their capacity to reach people.

First, Barnes said, churches should carefully evaluate their worship services and strive to improve every facet, from music to preaching to meeting and greeting visitors.

Second, "keep visitation, growth and evangelism obvious and visible in the services. Focus on the purpose of the church—reaching people."

Third, the use of Southern Baptist Sunday School grouping, grading, and educational approaches. He said they result in quality Bible study and outreach through adding new units and maintaining proper pupil-teacher ratios.

Fourth, publicity should be planned to penetrate the community not just communicate with fellow church members. A publicity poster placed in a grocery store will reach more people than a sign on church property. "Growing churches are focusing their attention on the people in the marketplace," he said.

Finally, "vision and excitement dominate growing churches. Pastor and people have a vision for what their church can mean to the community." (Lawson is news director for the BSSB.)

The

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JACKSON MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1982

Volume CVI, Number 38

Office costs drop

Savings cited in FMB 20 percent budget jump

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A record 1983 budget of \$125,952,000, one-fifth larger than this year's, won quick ap-

Basden, Weirs among FMB appointees

Marjorie Basden, formerly of Jackson, and Al and Rebecca Weir were among new appointees to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board with Mississippi ties.

Mrs. Basden is the widow of Harold G. Basden, a former pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, and later a staffer with the



The Weirs

FMB. She will work in Puerto Rico as secretary to the FMB's associate director for Middle America and the Caribbean. Currently, she manages the World Missions Conference section of the FMB at Richmond.

Mrs. Basden is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary. She has two grown children.

Al and Rebecca Weir will work in Nigeria where he will serve as a physician and she will be a home and church worker. The former Rebecca Kidd, she is a native of Water Valley, is a graduate of Memphis State and attended Ole Miss.

He is a native of Memphis and recently closed a medical practice there. The couple expect the birth of their second child in March.

The Weirs and Mrs. Basden will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in January for a 12-week orientation before leaving for the field.

proval Oct. 13 from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

President R. Keith Parks said: a combination of sacrificial giving by Southern Baptists, favorable return on investments and good money management made possible the 20.15 percent budget increase.

He emphasized it is also a budget based on faith because it includes the entire \$58 million goal for this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. This offering alone is expected to provide more than 46 percent of the 1983 budget.

The budget reflects a 16.87 percent increase in the board's receipts from the Cooperative Program, which will provide more than 40 percent of the budget income.

The vast majority of Southern Baptists, Parks said, are still committed to working together through the Cooperative Program to do more to win the world to Christ than "any one of us can do on our own."

"There are a few who call themselves Southern Baptists who have lost their commitment to the Bible," he continued. "They do not provide much

support for this budget. There are also a few who call themselves Southern Baptists who emphasize other beliefs to the neglect of missions and cooperation. And they do not provide much of this budget."

"However, the preponderant majority of Southern Baptists hold firmly to the authority of the Bible and the conviction that this must be expressed in world missions. If we ever lose missions as our central thrust, we may continue to be conservative biblically and theologically, but no longer be the Southern Baptist Convention we have been."

The 1983 budget continues to accelerate the percentage of funds going overseas and whittles the home office budget percentage to 11.47 percent. In 1981, the home office percentage was 12.61 percent.

The two-year reduction of 1.14 percent in home office percentage will provide an additional \$1,435,853 in 1983 funds for field budgets, Parks said.

Capital needs overseas—those that pay for such projects as church buildings and missionary residences—(Continued on page 2)

Harbour to lead Bible studies during convention

Former Mississippi pastor, Brian Harbour, will be Bible study leader for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Nov. 8-10 at First Church, Jackson.

Harbour, pastor of Colonial Heights Church in Jackson, 1972-74, will deliver the Bible Treasures, short studies during each of the six MBC sessions.

Harbour, now pastor of First Church, Pensacola, Fla., reports he will focus on 1 Peter, since that is the January Bible study book for the year. Topics will be "Aliens," 1 Peter 1:1; "When Faith is Tested," 1 Peter 1:6-7; "Prepared for Life," 1 Peter 1:13; "The Pattern for

Today's Church," 1 Peter 2:9-10; "What Motivates You?" 1 Peter 4:11; and "Judgement Begins with the Household of God," 1 Peter 4:17.

Harbour, 38, is a graduate of Baylor University, where he also earned a Ph.D. degree in 1973. In addition to the Jackson and Pensacola pastorates, he has served Texas churches at Belfalls, Waco, Calvert, and Dallas, plus one in Atlanta, Ga.

A prolific writer, Harbour is continuing a series of books about groups in the Bible. For Broadman Press, he wrote *Famous Couples of the Bible*, *Famous Singles of the Bible*, and, to be published in 1983, he is writing *Famous Parents of the Bible*.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention begins at 1:20 Monday, Nov. 8, and ends at 11:45 a.m., Nov. 10.

Police chaplaincy: someone to talk to

By Tim Nicholas

Leon Adams believes that every pastor should have his own ministry, apart, even, from that of the pastor's church ministry.

As pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Meridian, Adams has found such a ministry. Adams is part-time chaplain for the Meridian Police Department. When on duty, Adams wears a police uniform, but doesn't carry a gun—though one officer encouraged him to carry a night stick while riding in patrol cars.

Last year, Adams, who had served as one day a week chaplain at East Mississippi Hospital for three years, met the new police chief, Jerry Marlow, at their barber shop. Adams suggested a chaplain's program, and Marlow was interested.

"Even when I was a patrolman," said Marlow, who worked his way up through the ranks. "I thought we ought to have one (a chaplain) . . . someone they could go to other than our fellow officers." Marlow said perhaps an officer might go to a chaplain before going to a pastor.

Adams, who estimates he serves about 32 hours a month, works without pay. He rides with the officers as often as possible. "That's the way you get to know them," says Adams. "It often provides a setting for ministry—some wouldn't come to my office, (however) if I came to their office . . ."

He gets called in when there is an accident with serious injuries, or when there's a death. After a death notification, an officer asked Adams how he felt about death. He said this offered him a chance to explain his concept of God and God's provisions.

Chief Marlow says Adams has been accepted "seems like better than a new recruit." Marlow says he believes Adams' chaplaincy helps to show the community "We're a God-fearing bunch," and that "we're not so cold-hearted after all." He says when a

police officer or family member is in the hospital and Adams makes a visit, he more or less represents the police department and people begin to feel, "by golly, they do care."

Adams worked with the Gideons to place a New Testament in every officer's hands (there are 93 officers and about 50 other employees) and a Bible in each office. None refused the scriptures, said Marlow, who noted that if any officer threw it away, it was at least done privately.

Marlow sums up the kind of ministry Adams provides, one of opportunity, "I want the officers to have someone they can talk to instead of some bottle."

Adams nearly repeats the sentiment with "it's a way of ministering to people who don't get ministering otherwise."



Leon Adams

HMB adopts \$47.9 million budget, elects Banks VP

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board adopted a \$47.9 million budget for 1983, elevated Bob Banks to a new position as vice president for administration, appointed 72 new missionaries, and celebrated the board's 100th anniversary in Atlanta.

The \$47.9 million budget is an increase of almost \$5.7 million over the 1982 budget of \$42.2 million. It will permit a 10 percent salary hike for appointed missionaries.

Banks, associate to the president, was promoted to a newly-created position of vice president for administration, effective immediately. Banks, a native of Griffin, Ga., came to the HMB last year after seven years with the SBC Brotherhood Commission and 20 years with the Oklahoma Baptist Brotherhood Department.

Mafia-styled killing

(Continued from Page 1)

"We use our equipment as long as we can down here but I guess we'll have to quit using this one now."

Ballard requested continued prayer support from Southern Baptists as the missionaries continue their work. In addition to work with Colombians, Ballard and his wife head up work with the English-speaking population of the country.

There are five Southern Baptist missionaries and one SBC journeyman assigned to Baptist Hospital: Ballard, Victor D. Norman, Robert L. Edwards, George H. Kollmar and Jeni Hester are permanent missionaries (Hester is a nurse, the others doctors); Vonda Cravens is a journeyman nurse.

(Birs is BP feature editor.)

Medical Center sets seminar on stress

The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson will present a seminar on the links between communication, health, and stress-induced illness on Dec. 8.

Sponsored by the University Hospital department of pastoral services, the one-day program is designed primarily for professionals in the fields of pastoral care, medicine, psychiatry, psychology and social work.

Seminar coordinator is James Travis, pastoral services director at the Medical Center. Travis is a Baptist. Faculty are James J. Lynch, professor of psychiatry and co-director of the psychophysiological clinic at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Ellie Sturgis, UMC assistant professor of psychiatry and human behavior (psychology).

Registration fee for the seminar is \$25, and advance registration is requested. For information, contact Continuing Education at the Medical Center, 2500 North State Street, Jackson 39216, or phone 987-4914.

Campers hold rally, report volunteer work

Mississippi Campers on Mission held its fall rally Sept. 17-19 at Sleepy Hollow Campground, Houston, electing new officers. A total of 23 rigs registered.

Grey Edmondson of Edwards is new president, John Mattox of Petal is vice president, and Mae Price of Columbus is secretary-treasurer.

John McBride, director of the Cooperative Missions department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was guest speaker. A report was given on a church building project with the Choctaw Indians at Bogue Chitto. Still needed are brick masons and finish workers.

The next rally will be at Boone's Camp at Columbia the last weekend in March, 1983.

Mississippi Campers on Mission is a state chapter of a national organization made up primarily of Southern Baptists interested in combining the fellowship of camping with volunteer mission work.

A Southeast Regional Resort Conference will be held at Blue Springs Assembly, Marianna, Fla., Feb. 21-23. Campsites and lodging are both available. For more information, contact John McBride at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone 968-3800.

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Two other new staff positions, were created but not immediately filled—assistant director, metropolitan missions department, and associate vice president, evangelism.

In addition to adopting the budget, the board approved 1983 program goals for the agency and adopted a distribution plan for 1983. Annie Armstrong Easter Offering receipts. With a goal of \$25 million for 1983, the offering will provide \$16.2 million for direct support of home missionaries and field ministries, \$2.8 million for special HMB projects, and \$6 million for "advance in critical areas."

In this annual report to directors, HMB President William G. Tanner reported receipts through the 1982 Annie Armstrong Offering is \$1.1 million over what was given by the same period last year, but still short of the \$22 million goal. So far this year, \$19,085,000 has been given through the home mission offering. Tanner told board members projections indicate gifts through the offering probably will reach \$19.5 million in 1982.

In a 40-minute report summarizing major accomplishments of the agency last year, Tanner told not only the statistics, but talked about people who "are on mission for Christ" in seeking to proclaim the gospel to everyone in America.

He cited specifically a group of 20 Baptist young people at the World's Fair in Knoxville who have shared

their faith in a musical drama 600 times in 180 days to about 800,000 people, and a group of Baptists at a county fair in the Midwest who gave 4,650 cups of cold water in Jesus' name.

He told of a bi-vocational pastor and law enforcement officer who is leading his congregation to reach every non-Christian in his community, and of a small association with only 15 churches seeking to establish 16 new church-type missions in the next two years.

In other business, the HMB directors voted to move the HMB refugee resettlement offices from Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, to lease space on Peachtree Street in Atlanta, and deeded several pieces of property owned by the HMB to other Baptist groups.

The action included transferring ownership of about 40 pieces of property in Cuba to the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. Valued at \$2 to \$3 million, the property includes churches, a retirement home, an encampment, and several other tracts.

The board also gave an Indian residence in Citronelle, Ala., to E. R. Isbell, who is retiring after 25 years as Indian missionary, and released a gift lien held on the pasturage of First Chinese Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

(Newton is HMB news editor.)

Savings cited in FMB 20 percent budget jump

(Continued from Page 1)

increased from \$8 million in 1982 to \$13.7 million in 1983. Of this, \$12 million will come from the Lottie Moon Offering.

The board appropriated \$2 million out of current funds to help purchase housing units for its almost 3,200 missionaries. The money, with a similar amount set up last year, will go into an interest-free housing loan fund so that individual mission fields can more quickly get missionaries out of expensive rental housing. The money will be paid back out of the various fields' budgets.

Board action to add new missionaries immediately to its retirement plan without a three-term waiting period with the Annuity Board will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1982. A special appropriation of \$605,000 covers these retroactive pension contributions for 1982.

Unusually high interest rates for the last several years have helped provide additional income both on the board's endowment investments and on short-term investment of funds awaiting use overseas.

Board members put a \$20 million ceiling on the board contingency reserve after adding \$3 million to bring it up to that level. It also transferred \$3 million from investment income to its endowment and trust funds.

Southern Baptist Convention action allows the board to have a contingency reserve fund equal to six months of the board's operating budget, which for 1983 would amount to about \$55 million. But staffers said the \$20 million reserve should be adequate to meet any emergency they could foresee at this time.

(Stanley directs news and information at the FMB.)

Playboy mocks Christ's birth, reports Wildmon

TUPELO, Miss.—An article mocking the birth of Christ which appears in the November issue of Playboy will be reprinted and mailed to more than 160,000 ministers, according to the head of the National Federation for Decency.

A copy of the article, entitled "The Second Coming," has already been mailed to several hundred Christian leaders. Bishop Robert M. Blackburn, United Methodist bishop of the Richmond Area, called the article "a shameful, sacrilegious treatment of Scripture." John M. Murphy, Deputy Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, called it "rank blasphemy" and "a gross affront to the most deeply felt sensibilities." Arturo Banuelas, administrative assistant to Catholic Bishop Raymundo Pena of El Paso, said it is "an offensive article that mocks one of the most sacred of our mysteries of faith." Paul E. Waldschmidt, Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Portland, referred to the article as "offensive-filth."

"This article is clear evidence of the anti-Christian nature of Playboy and similar pornographic magazines," said Donald E. Wildmon, a United Methodist minister who heads the NFD. "Playboy and the other porno magazines aren't just girlie books. They represent a philosophy of life which has no room for the poor, the old, the sick, or the unlovely. Their hatred of Christianity, which loves the unlovely, is deep and vicious."

The article is about a husband and wife who ask his friend to impregnate his wife. An angel appears to the husband and announces that the son which his wife will bear by his friend will be called the "Messiah." The angel identifies herself with the biblical story and says that the man who commits adultery with the wife is "infused with the Spirit of God." The husband has sex with the angel. The caption of the story reads: "Do you know the story of Mary and Joseph and the angel? You haven't heard this version."

Gaddy won't go to Israel for political fellowship

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—C. Welton Gaddy, one of the "moderate" representatives on a proposed trip to Israel arranged by Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. has informed Draper he will not participate.

Gaddy, pastor of Broadway Church, Fort Worth, was one of 17 Southern Baptist leaders invited by Draper to participate in the trip in late November under the sponsorship of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a Jewish laymen's organization.

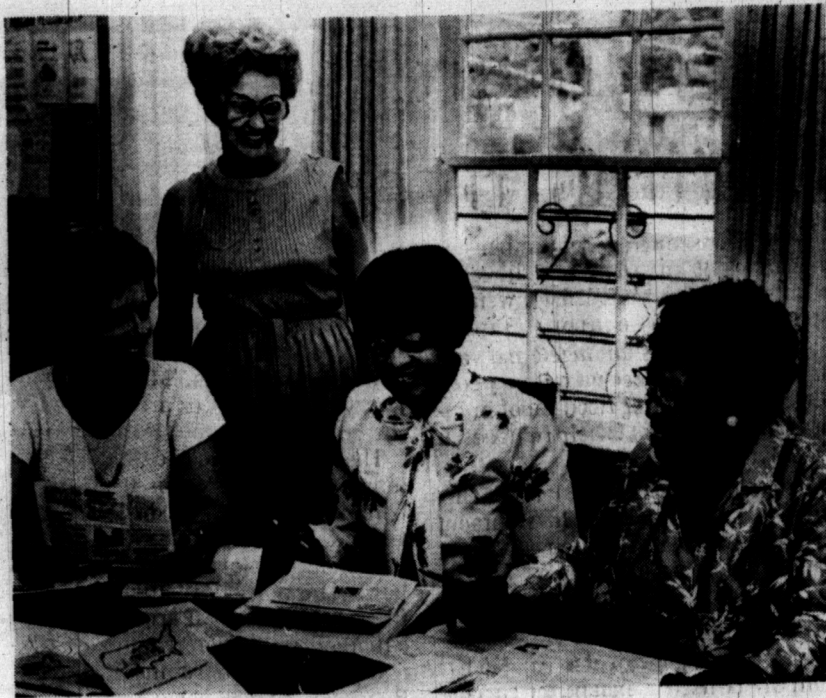
At the time he announced the participants, Draper said they represented the "full spectrum" of the current SBC political scene, and added he was interested that "these men from the diverse groups within the SBC have a chance to develop friendships and relationships."

"Though I am appreciative of B'nai B'rith and the Israeli government for

their willingness to host a group of Southern Baptists, I am uncomfortable with that arrangement," Gaddy wrote in his church newsletter. "Many of Israel's military actions and policy decisions within the immediate past are simply indefensible (and reprehensible) in my opinion. I do not feel good about any identification with Israel, overt or implied, which could be misinterpreted as support for such strategies. That is simply a matter of conscience."

Gaddy cited other reasons for withdrawing, including vacancies in the educational staff at his church, reluctance to miss the first Sunday of Advent in church and an opportunity to preach a revival meeting at Broadway's sister church in Brazil.

He said the change in plans does not change his willingness to work with Draper or anyone else to resolve differences and restore unity and cooperation within the convention.



Baptist women of Jones County plan for a Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer program to be held Nov. 1 at First Church, Laurel. Left to right are Mrs. Vincent Scoper Jr., chairman of the planning committee for the program and Woman's Missionary Union director for the church; Mrs. Jean Williams, Baptist Women director for the Jones County Association WMU; Mrs. Alma Barnes, president of the East Mississippi State National Baptist Women's Convention; and Mrs. Marjorie Williams, member of the Morning Star Baptist Church of Laurel.

Women's prayer day

(Continued from page 1)

Mississippi WMU executive secretary. The program in Laurel will be sponsored by the Jones County Association WMU in cooperation with the National Baptist Women of the Jones County area. Mrs. Vincent (Dell) Scoper Jr. is director of the WMU for First Church, Laurel. Mrs. Alma Barnes is president of the East Mississippi State National Baptist Women's Convention.

In each meeting the aim is to have fellowship with Baptist women from all churches in the area and to involve women from all races. The theme for both programs will be "Faith Growing More and More."

Following the program in Laurel a reception will honor Mrs. Neal. She has been a board member of the North American Baptist Women's Union for 12 years and was president of the Baptist Women's Missionary Society of Ontario and Quebec from 1979 until 1981.

Southwestern approves merger with Hispanic Seminary

By Norman Jameson

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary approved the final steps of merger with the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio as they held their annual fall meeting.

Trustees also added two degrees to the curriculum, approved an Institute of Applied Ethics; named three endowed chairs; agreed to help Houston Baptists University build a classroom building for Southwestern's off-campus center, changed the nomenclature of the master of church music degree, and heard the president's annual report.

During the trustee meeting, the seminary dedicated the A. Webb Roberts Library, named for a Dallas businessman and philanthropist. The \$6.6 million, 100,000 square-foot facility is the largest theological library in the nation.

A budget of \$750,099 for the Hispanic seminary was adopted. The school will become a component of Southwestern if the merger is approved on second reading at the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in November.

Also approved were Hispanic Seminary's curriculum and adjunct status

at Southwestern for its faculty. Daniel J. Rivera was elected president of Hispanic Seminary as part of Southwestern's administrative staff.

The new degree plans include master of arts degrees in missiology and marriage and family counseling. The master of church music degree will be renamed the master of music in church music degree to align terminology more closely with other graduate institutions.

Trustees approved the founding agreement for the A. Webb Roberts Institute of Applied Ethics. Roberts made the seminary beneficiary of a \$1 million trust to be used for endowing the institute.

Seminary officers will work with Roberts to complete details and when the agreement is completed Roberts will add an additional \$1 million to the endowment. The seminary has agreed to add a third \$1 million.

Trustees also approved the inclusion of a chair of applied ethics, to be filled later, as part of the institute.

Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. announced a gift from Evelyn Lineberry of Midland, Texas, has enabled the seminary to purchase land on the campus' west side, on both sides of Gambrell Street.

Dilday presented his annual report

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Foreign Board increases relief allocations over 81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A record \$5,969,163 in hunger and relief funds has been released by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board through Oct. 12, more than double the amount allocated during the comparable period in 1981.

The total is running far ahead of receipts, which amounted to \$3,086,397 through Sept. 30, the latest figure available. Receipts for 1982 are up 35 percent over receipts in the first nine months of 1981.

Greatly increased relief spending this year validates the Foreign Mission Board's commitment to long-range planning which caused an earlier accumulation of unsent relief funds, says John R. Cheyne, senior human needs consultant for the board.

Although the Foreign Mission Board lagged in spending during years when Southern Baptist giving to hunger relief surged, it has allocated all money received so far in 1982 plus more than \$2 million accumulated in earlier years.

The Foreign Mission Board has been able to emphasize long-range projects which seek to deal with the underlying causes of hunger and which are integrated with other Baptist ministries without crippling its ability to respond to emergencies such as recent fighting in Lebanon and Hurricane Paul in Mexico, said Cheyne.

Allocations during September totaled \$987,666 and went to 10 different countries. From that, \$25,000 went to repair Beirut (Lebanon) Baptist School, which was damaged and vandalized during the recent military conflict; \$5,000 went for flood relief in India; and \$5,000 went to help refugees in El Salvador.

Countries receiving the largest allocations for long-range development projects were the Philippines, Upper Volta, Argentina and Kenya.

More than two-thirds of the \$248,412 to the Philippines will go to two vocational training projects. An \$85,000 sum will be used to expand the carpentry training program for Indochinese refugees in Morong, Bataan, and \$80,000 will be used to train school dropouts in food production in Zamboanga Del Sur province of Mindanao.

The \$190,000 set aside for Upper Volta will be used to continue a three-year development project which is improving lifestyles in a group of villages in the Diabolo Circle region where frequent droughts make life precarious. Tennessee Baptist volunteers, Southern Baptist missionaries and Voltaics already have completed a dam which provided a lake for irrigation.

Other phases of the project—water resource development, evangelism,

public health and training in agriculture, nutrition and literacy—are now moving into full swing. Revivals last spring in 17 villages resulted in more than 1,000 people making decisions to become Christians. Mississippians Larry and Cheryl Cox are supervising the projects.

The \$130,667 going to Argentina is aimed at meeting needs that existed before the recent armed conflict with Great Britain deepened Argentina's economic problems. The money will be used for milk distribution in some of the country's poorest areas, for publication of a nutrition training booklet and for vocational training in La Paz, Buenos Aires, and Neuquen.

Much of the \$125,956 allocated for Kenya will be used to provide pure drinking water or water for irrigation in several areas, but a \$45,246 allocation will help establish an agricultural training program on land owned by Brackenhurst Baptist International Conference Center in Limuru.

Mississippi Baptist Activities

- Nov. 1 How to Have a Youth Week Conference; 7-9 p.m. FBC, Pontotoc/FBC, Philadelphia/FBC, Pascagoula (CT)
- Nov. 2 How to Have a Youth Week Conference; 7-9 p.m. FBC, Greenwood/Easthaven BC, Brookhaven/Highland BC, Laurel (CT)



Aubrey Dodson, layman and bus ministry chairman, of First Church, Holly Springs, is shown working to help build First Church, Colstrip, Montana. Dodson has worked on this project on two occasions. The building began in June and Dodson spent three weeks in early summer and returned for two more weeks in late September to contribute more of his time. Members of this church met on Oct. 17 for their first service. Richard Lumm is pastor of the Colstrip Church.

Captain Kangaroo unhappy with broadcasters' values

By Greg Warner
FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Bob Keeshan, better known to millions as TV's "Captain Kangaroo," says broadcasters are shirking their responsibilities for teaching values to America's youth.

"There is no way to defend the exploitative programming we see on Saturday morning," Keeshan challenged. "It is not really designed to enhance the child's well-being in any way but to exploit children and sell products."

Keeshan made the remarks when interviewed for programs produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. He also met with commission officials to lend insight and counsel on producing programs for children.

The 55-year-old Keeshan, who created the Captain in 1955, still has the warm, soft-spoken personality that has endeared him to two generations of preschoolers. But when the subject turns to parenting, values or the status of children's television, he speaks with a frankness and intensity not known to his fans.

Keeshan said broadcasters rely too heavily on audience ratings and advertising dollars to determine what programs to air. Children (and other minority groups) suffer because they do not constitute a large audience or spend a lot of money.

But Keeshan also criticized the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for reducing requirements on broadcasters to carry specific types of programs.

"I spent the last 15 years as a broadcaster talking against regulation, saying broadcasters are responsible human beings who don't need to be told by the FCC to do this or that," he said. "Now that the threat of regulation has been removed, I've seen a lot of broadcasters make a liar of me. They have not acted responsibly."

"Captain Kangaroo," the only daily children's program on commercial network television, will lose that distinction soon when CBS shifts the show from its weekday spot to weekends.

For 26 years, the hour-long "Captain Kangaroo" was a mainstay of CBS's morning lineup. But the network cut the program down to a half hour in September 1981, and moved it to 6:30 a.m. in January to make room for a news program. The latest move will put the Captain on one hour Saturday and Sunday morning.

Keeshan sees those changes as a blow to children's programming. Under the new "marketplace" approach to regulation, he said, "the Captain went by the wayside." Other children's programs will also disappear, he predicted, or be relegated to cable TV or other paid-subscription services.

"But only about 30 percent of the nation is wired for cable and they tend to be more affluent," he continued. "Very often the disadvantaged family, which uses and needs television more than the average family, cannot afford

it. We would hate to see this nation with only two systems of television—pay TV and 'poor TV.'"

What hasn't changed since 1955 is the purpose of Keeshan's work.

"I am dealing with children between two and five years of age, a very formative period of their lives," he explained. "My main concern is to make the child feel valuable—that he has a future, a reason for being on earth."

The Captain credits his Christian upbringing and education with molding his values and those on his show.

He intended to be a lawyer but while working as a page for NBC in 1947 he

the TV as a babysitter, a practice he calls one of the "misdeemeanors" of child abuse.

"Here is a three-year-old with a sandbox experience to relate which may not be very important to the parent but is extremely important to the child. We say, 'Later. Go watch television.' But we don't talk later, or tomorrow or the next day. And all of a sudden the child is 12, 13, or 14 years of age and in some kind of difficulty. But it's too late."

Rather than concentrating on remedies for teen-age problems, Keeshan contended, a society would be wiser to teach parenting skills and invest in good children's programs.



Bob Keeshan, TV's "Captain Kangaroo," says television's emphasis on audience ratings and advertising dollars keeps children from learning life's important values. Keeshan was interviewed for the Radio and Television Commission's "MasterControl" radio program. (RTVC Photo by Ken Beazley)

was dubbed by the creator of "Howdy Doody" to play several small roles on the new show. Keeshan went on to create several children's programs of his own.

By the time Keeshan started "Captain Kangaroo" in 1955, he and his wife, Jeanne, had three children, which affected the way he viewed his job.

"The values in my program are very much my personal values," he said. "There is very little line to be drawn between the Captain and Bob Keeshan. But I don't have the right to usurp the privilege and prerogative of parents (in order) to preach a specific philosophy," he warned. Instead he substitutes "universal" values for uniquely Christian ones.

"I was quite serious in my thinking about television and its potential, particularly in giving young people values," he remembered. "I look back 35 years later and see, particularly in commercial television, we have failed to meet all those expectations. At least I have."

"When we watch a game show we may laugh and think that's funny or just entertaining. But a child, with a limited frame of reference, sees these silly people with their silly costumes competing for dollars. Values are being given there. Greed and avarice are being rewarded and applauded."

Keeshan also scores parents who use

Mississippi Baptist Seminary plans fellowship revival

A fellowship revival for the Mississippi Baptist Seminary will be held Nov. 1-5, at Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 2110 Ridgeway Street, Jackson. James Matthews is pastor.

The revival is being sponsored by the Hinds County Baptist Association, The Hope Springs, Hinds and Adjoining Counties Association, the J. M. B. District Association, Farish Street Church, and the Spring Hill District Association.

Speakers for the five-night revival will be Leon Bell, S. L. Bowman, A. J. Taylor, James C. Matthews, and Hickman Johnson. A different speaker will give the sermon on each night.

Member churches of the sponsoring associations will also participate with inspirational singing, scripture, testimonial, and greetings.

For more information, call the seminary at 944-1741.

Disbanded church lives once again as a mission

By Anne McWilliams
Though Lurand Baptist Church in Riverside Association disbanded as a church earlier this year, this action was not to discontinue its ministry. Rather, the decision to disband came as an effort to enlarge the ministry, according to Jerry Gray, Riverside director of missions.

The membership at Lurand had declined and those members left were unable to keep the church going financially. They all agreed to deed the church property to the Riverside Baptist Association and to ask Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale, to begin a mission there.

Curtis Hodges, a lay member of Oakhurst, saw the possibilities of the situation and said to the Oakhurst Brotherhood, "Look, men, we've got to do this!" And he led out in a census of the Lurand community four miles from Clarksdale on Highway 49.

"I'm still optimistic," he said recently. "I believe it's going to work. There are 65 families in that neighborhood. Some are involved in other churches. Many may be hard to reach, but many others can be reached."

Hodges is chairman of the administrative committee of the mission which has been named the Oakhurst Baptist Mission.

On Oct. 1, Asbury Martin became the pastor of the mission, moving there from the Dundee Baptist Church. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

Hodges teaches Sunday School at the mission. He has three or four others from Oakhurst Church who work with him at the mission. "We need more leaders," he said.

By mid-September, the high attendance had been 46, the Sunday School high 36 (average 25), and Church Training high, 20.

BWA Men's department dedicates offices

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Offices for the new Baptist World Alliance men's department were dedicated in a quiet ceremony at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Oct. 20.

Dub Jackson, former Southern Baptist missionary and former president of the World Evangelism Foundation, will direct the department from offices adjacent to Southwestern on land purchased and donated to the seminary by Evelyn Lineberry of Midland, Texas.

Seminary President Russell H. Dillard Jr. said the department's proximity to campus will fulfill a dream of his—Southwestern becoming more deeply involved in world Baptist affairs.

Duke K. McCall, Baptist World Alliance president, joined persons from Sri Lanka and Japan, the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission, Dillard and Fred Roach of the Texas Baptist Men, in bringing greetings and praying for the success of the new department.

"Is this the dawning of another great opportunity for Baptists around the world to come together?" asked Hidesugu Ando, evangelism secretary of the Japan Baptist convention. "I think this would be the heart of our Lord."

McCall cited the impossible task of world evangelism if left to career missionaries and called the seminary "as a good place for Baptist World Alliance to have an anchor" to encompass the world for Christ. "This is a great seminary with world-encircling influence," said McCall, himself the retired president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Glenn Sullivan, pastor at Oakhurst, said that the association's only connection with the mission is in ownership of the property. The Oakhurst Church takes care of the mission's finances.

The mission building was painted Sept. 13-17 by professional painters. "Oakhurst members paid \$1,000 to get this done by professionals," Hodges said, "so Oakhurst is entering into it well."

Staff Changes

Russell B. Cottingham has resigned as pastor of Pecan Grove Church, Ellisville. He and his wife were honored with a reception and presented with a gift from the membership. He resides at 203 Magnolia Street, Ellisville.

Matt Buckles is new pastor of Goss Church, Columbia. He was pastor of Sylvaena Church since September 1979 and 1976-79, he was pastor of Hamburg Church, Franklin County. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Karen have a son, Doug.

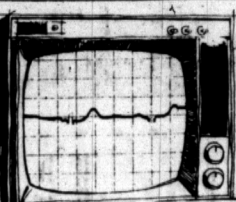
Robert Boykin is minister of education at First Church, Pontotoc. A Pearl native, is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Diane have one son, Jeremy. Gordon Sansing is pastor.

Jorge Salazar is part time minister of music and youth at Thompson Church, Smithdale. He is a student at the University of Southern Mississippi. Steve Echols is pastor.

Mitch Rayborn has been called as minister of music and youth at Bassfield Church, Jefferson Davis Association. He is a student at William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

Thursday, October 28, 1982

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3



Intensive care

Dedicated to strengthening families
Directed by a team of family life specialists

Anger—Pastor's Wife

My husband is a pastor and is constantly being called upon to referee family quarrels among church members. Why can't couples who claim to be Christian get along? It seems the problem is getting worse. Is it normal for people who love each other to become angry with each other? Can the economic pressures so many of our people face have something to do with it? Sometimes the members' problems frustrate my husband to the extent that it affects our relationship. Help!—Anxious pastor's wife.

As a pastor's wife and concerned Christian you are not alone in your anxiety about family conflicts, and the problem is getting worse. Economic pressures do have an effect. Perhaps main causes are poor communication patterns and assumptions of how the other family members feel. Parents are frustrated over youth's peer pressures and young people often feel they are misunderstood and that parents don't take the time to really listen to them patiently.

Yes, it is normal for people who love each other to become angry, disappointed, or hurt. "Be angry but sin not," Ephesians 4:26. To own your anger and handle it constructively is what this seems to mean. Attack the problem and not the person is the key.

The Baptist Building Media Resource Center has both a video and cassette tape available on a loan basis entitled "Love, Anger and Intimacy" by David Mace. He also has a new book "Love and Anger in Marriage," Zondervan.

A caring pastor (as most are) must realize that "doing the Lord's work" means considering his own family as the Lord's work, too. He must not allow his church members to exploit him to the extent that he gives his family only the residue of his emotional exhaustion. In almost every church there is at least one neurotic church member who will take nearly all of the pastor's time if he will permit it.

Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, the Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Baptist Record advisory committee names officers

New officers of the Baptist Record Advisory Committee assumed office last week. The new chairman is Marcus Finch, pastor of Oakland Heights Church, Meridian. He replaced Gary Holland, editor of the Mississippi Press, daily newspaper of Pascagoula.

Tom Hudson, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, is the new vice chairman, succeeding Finch. Evelyn

Keyes, advertising manager and office secretary for the Baptist Record, continues as secretary.

Officers are elected by the committee during its April semi-annual meeting and take office with the October meeting.

The Baptist Record Advisory Committee is a six-person committee elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention on a three-year, rotating basis.

You are cordially invited to attend
HOMECOMING CELEBRATION
White Oak Baptist Church
Smith County, MS.
on Sunday, November 7th, 1982
LUNCH 12 NOON
MORNING SERVICE 10:30 AM AFTERNOON SERVICE 1:15 PM
JOHN ALEXANDER, Preacher CLARENCE CUTRELL, Preacher
ALL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED WILL BE USED
FOR THE UPKEEP OF THE CEMETERIES
CHURCH ORGANIZED—NOVEMBER, 1842
Celebrating 140 YEARS of service for Jesus Christ
REV. JAMES FULTON, Pastor RALPH HALL, Minister of Music

DOWNTOWN
Sun-n-Sand
MOTOR HOTEL
The SUN-N-SAND MOTEL, 401 N. Lamar Street in Jackson, Mississippi, located adjacent to the state office building, complex, wishes to welcome you to the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION to be held in Jackson on November 8th-10th.
Our motel is under new management and has been extensively renovated. You will find our dining facilities now serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner to be equal to any in the city.
Our catering office can handle your every meeting and banquet needs.
Our rates are \$25 single and \$30 double occupancy, plus tax. Call or write us at (601) 354-2501 if we can make a reservation for you.
Southern Hospitality at its Finest

100%
MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT
Enrollment now available at 65 or over.
Guaranteed renewable.
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AT LAST!
A policy that pays 100% of what Medicare does not pay for hospital and 100% of usual and customary charges of the area for doctors in hospital—not just Medicare allowable charges.
NOW only ONE Medicare Supplement needed and ONE claim form to complete.
Pays 100% of usual and customary charges of the area in doctor's office, clinic, or out patient after \$75.00 deductible.
Also pays benefits for nurse and nursing home. Also available 100% Major Medical under age 65.
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For full information phone 956-3992 or fill out coupon and mail to:
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P.O. Box 16849, Jackson, MS 39206
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BR1

Editorials

Alcohol bill prefiling continues

by Don McGregor

As the nationwide emphasis on getting the drunk driver off the road continues to mount, additional bills aimed at accomplishing that effect have been prefiling for the 1983 session of the Mississippi Legislature.

Rep. Lonnie Johnson of Rankin County has filed two bills. One, mentioned in the *Baptist Record* issue of Sept. 30, would raise the minimum age for drinking beer from 18 to 21. The minimum age for liquor is already 21.

The other bill relating to alcohol that has been prefiling by Johnson deals with the penalties for drunken driving. Johnson told the *Baptist Record* that his drunk driving penalty bill would provide for a sentence of 24 days in jail if a person flunks the breath analyzer test for blood alcohol content or refuses to take the test. The law specifies that a person found with .10 percent of alcohol in his blood stream is to be considered intoxicated.

On the first conviction of intoxication the driver would lose his driver's license for one year, and he would be sentenced to spend 40 days in jail on weekends. He would be freed during the week to continue working at his job.

On the second conviction the drunk driver would pay a \$1,000 fine, and on the third his license would be suspended for five years.

Sen. Malcolm Mabry of Coahoma and Tunica counties has informed the *Baptist Record* that he also has prefiling two bills related to the use of alcohol. One of these two bills would establish penalties for conviction of driving while intoxicated. First conviction would bring a fine of \$500 plus a mandatory 24 hours in jail. The bill would not allow the courts to suspend either the fine or the imprisonment. The bill sets forth that forfeitures and pleas of no contest would be taken as convictions. On second conviction there would be a mandatory \$1,000 fine and seven days in jail along with an automatic suspension of driver's license for one year. The seven-day jail sentence would have to be all served at one stretch.

On a third conviction the measure would establish a guaranteed fine of \$1,500, and at least 30 days in jail on a consecutive basis would be mandatory. In this case the judge would be granted the option of extending the jail term to one year. Drivers' licenses would be suspended for two years.

Drivers who refused to yield to tests would be imprisoned for at least 24 hours and not more than a year. There is also an automatic six-month license suspension.

Mabry's bill would make mandatory a \$500 fine and 48 hours in jail for any-

one apprehended while driving while his driver's license is under suspension because of a drunk driver-related circumstance.

Mabry's other drunk driver bill would provide for a minimum of 20 years in prison without parole for a person convicted of causing the death of a person while driving while intoxicated.

Mabry's evaluation of a drunken driver on the highway is that it is about the same as giving a child a loaded revolver to play with in a room full of people. "Sooner or later he's going to get somebody," he said.

That is an appropriate analysis. The drunken driver is not just a dangerous situation. It is a deadly circumstance. There is no way of predicting what he will do, and sooner or later some innocent victim is going to be unable to avoid his path.

In addition to these bills another has been prefiling by Rep. Dennis Dollar of Gulfport. Dollar has explained his bill is a letter to the editor that is to be found on this page.

One more bill deserves attention. On a regular annual basis Sen. Howard Dyer of Greenville has been filing a bill seeking to have legalized the advertising of alcoholic beverages in Mississippi. At this time such advertising is illegal, and Dyer's bills have been de-

feated year after year. That means that Mississippians don't want that kind of advertising in our state. He has prefiling such a bill again this year, and it needs to be defeated again.

The question of alcohol advertising in Mississippi is now before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. Arguments have been heard, but no decision has been reached. One federal district judge in the state has upheld the Mississippi ban on alcohol advertising, and another has held that such a ban is unconstitutional. The state has appealed the latter ruling.

The people don't want it, and the constitution does not protect the unwanted advertiser. The ban on liquor advertising needs to continue to hold. The relaxing of this ban by the Legislature in allowing the advertising of wine made from native grapes was a move in the wrong direction.

These are matters that demand attention. It is not too early to be in touch with state representatives and senators. They have more time to listen now than they will when the legislative session gets under way. There needs to be a groundswell of sentiment in support of these bills. The people in the Legislature are reasonable. They will back reasonable legislation. They need to know their constituents are behind them.

Severance pay for pastors?

What sort of severance pay does a pastor or other church staff member need who finds himself forced to resign. Does anyone ever give it much consideration?

How much time does the pastor need in order to have an opportunity to move to another pastorate?

These are questions that are the responsibility of every church member. Every member of any church is responsible for the circumstances facing his pastor; and when the circumstances dictate that the pastor is going to move, every member is faced with the responsibility of determining how the transition is carried out.

In the first place, each individual member must determine for himself whether or not he wants his pastor to continue in that pastorate. The member who allows a small group to cause a pastor to leave unnecessarily is guilty of performing a disservice to

the Lord, to the church, and to the pastor.

Make no mistake, at times there are those who take it upon themselves to guard what they consider to be the well-being of the church by being the watchdogs of the pastor.

The question of the moment, however, is what about the times when the pastor needs to move. For this to be the case, it must have been determined that it is the Lord's decision that the move must be made. Then the transition must be carried out in a manner that would please the Lord.

It must be remembered that the pastor is not able to go out and make application for another position. He has to wait for conditions to develop that would make it possible for him to accept another pastorate. These things take time. So there is no set time to be allowed. The best arrangement would be for the pastor and the church to be

able to agree that the pastor would make himself available for another pastorate, and the church would allow the time it would take for the conditions to develop that would make it possible.

If such an agreement cannot be reached, then there must be adequate time allowed for the pastor to find a new place of ministry. It must be remembered that when a church is dealing with its pastor in a situation that would lead to a change, it is dealing not only with the pastor but also with his wife and his children. They are also dependent on the salary that is being paid the pastor, and the church is just as responsible for them as it is for the pastor.

So then, what about severance pay? How can that be determined? One might ask. There is no way of providing a formula, but there are many expenses that have to be considered. For

instance, there may be the cost of moving. If the pastor has to move before finding another pastorate, then for sure he will have moving expenses. He is also going to have utility deposits to make. These can mount up to a sizeable sum and can be especially crippling if he has been living in a church-furnished home. He may have to provide housing for his family instead of it being furnished, and he may go for a period without income. These are matters that the church must reckon with.

And the individual church members must remember that the age-old practice of saying "they" when discussing the church is not an accurate portrayal of the church. It is everybody, individually and collectively. And each individual is responsible for what goes on in the name of the church, including how its ministers are treated.

There is no escape.

Guest opinion

The tremendous responsibility of the pastor of a church in a crisis

By Allen O. Webb

Most ministers who have served as pastors for a number of years have been in a church in crisis. The pastor's conduct under this stress can either lift up our Lord or be a stumbling block to those who are aware of the stress.

The minister should have a period of soul searching and self-examination.

1. Did God actually call him to preach?

Many times men enter the ministry to satisfy the wishes of a loved one. Sometimes they feel that it is a position of prestige and prominence.

2. If the first question is settled positively, he should re-evaluate his call to the church. Was it God's will, money, or personal desire that caused him to move to this church field? If it was not God's will, he should seek God's will in leaving very soon.

If this is also answered in the affirmative the following questions should be answered:

1. What caused the problem?
(1) Has there been moral indiscretion? If so a minister should be man enough to leave and bring no further reproach to God's work.

(2) If he was lazy and neither ministered to the people nor prepared for the pulpit, he should leave without a whimper. Most churches will forgive a reasonable amount of mistakes if the minister works hard and prepares his

heart and mind for his messages.

(3) If the problem was caused by a personality conflict, the minister should do everything possible to alleviate the problem in an honorable way.

2. Would it be better for the pastor, his family, and the church for him to leave.

A man should never stay until his family life is shattered or until his mind gets a bent toward the negative. Sometimes ministers stay in a problem situation that was not their fault until they get so problem orientated that it ruins their ministry.

If a man should feel that God's interest would be best served if he resigns, he should not whimper and whine. He should walk away in dignity and let the people see how a man of

God can move under the stress of seeming failure.

If after thorough evaluation and earnest unselfish prayer the pastor feels that it is God's will for him to remain in the church, there are a few suggestions from my heart:

1. Be definite in your expressions of God's will.

2. Never use the pulpit to fight personal battles. The pulpit is the place to preach the Word of God and should never be used to vent personal emotions and animosities.

3. Remember the why of your being in that particular place of service. If it is not to magnify our Lord, you should resign.

4. Minister to all the people whether they be close friends or members of the opposition.

Draper wants parity of views on faculties

By Philip Poole

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. wants a "fair representation of all (theological) views" in the classrooms of Southern Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, told a faculty dialogue at Southwestern Seminary he has confidence in the seminary faculty, but noted there are problems on the university level which might be spilling over to some seminary campuses.

The SBC president, however, said he does not want anyone fired because of their teachings.

"Most conservatives would be happy with parity in our classrooms," Draper said. "We would be happy with a fair presentation of all views, but we should make a concerted attempt to bring known conservatives to our faculties."

With proper planning, he said, this could be achieved through normal attrition.

Commenting on recent meetings with various convention groups, Draper said nothing he did seemed to please "the Shermans," but he was glad the meetings were held. He referred to brothers Cecil Sherman of Asheville, N.C., and Bill Sherman of

Nashville, leaders of a moderate faction in the denomination.

Draper mentioned three major conclusions which emerged from a Dallas meeting Oct. 5 of several leaders in the denomination.

He said the group concluded there are healthy differences in theology within the convention, but that the convention did not always have parity or balance. Draper said he felt the group agreed there was room for everyone to be involved as Southern Baptists and the main question was "what do we do now?"

Draper said the first step in resolving controversies is by communicating. He noted Southern Baptists have distinct theologies within the convention and that they should communicate their differences and move on.

Calling the current convention climate "extremely explosive," Draper said he believed the denominational leadership did not fully understand the relentlessness of the troops on both sides. He said the situation had gotten out of the hands of the leaders and some of the persons involved were "extremely hostile and angry" about the direction the convention was headed.

"If there can be an acceptance of the true diversity of our convention, then I can be optimistic about our future," he said.

Draper told the Southwestern faculty new guidelines for resolutions hopefully will lessen controversies about that process at future conventions. He plans to use a revised process at the 1983 SBC meeting in Pittsburgh where resolutions are brought to a table on the convention floor and registered with the resolutions committee rather than being presented from the platform.

Draper said he is asking the resolutions committee to meet at least one month in advance of the convention to prepare for possible topics to be addressed by the convention.

A current study by the SBC Executive Committee should bring proposed bylaw changes which would change the resolution process and limit the extent of their content, he said, adding, "we're out of our balliwick with political statements of national and international consequence."

Draper said he expects opposition at the Pittsburgh convention to his bid for re-election to a second term as convention president. He said the most liberal elements of the convention are within driving distance of Pittsburgh and are making well-organized plans. He said a second term would give him the opportunity to complete some projects.

(Philip Poole is news director for Southwestern Seminary.)



Faces And Places

By Anne Williams McWilliams

God's Music Man

God's Music Man. That's the way cartoonist Phil Card saw Edwin McNeely, professor of voice and ministry of music at Southwestern Baptist Seminary 40 years (1921-61). At 91, the music man spends his days at home now in Newton, Miss., sometimes watching a ball game on television, more often listening to music. "He can sit in that chair and sleep all day," his wife Addie said, "but if the music is on, he'll stay awake and listen."

(Continued from last week)

"Yes, we sang together at home," Dr. Mac told me. "I could play a guitar, and a banjo." His first public singing, he thinks, was probably with a quartet in church, as a young teen he started leading singing for revivals. During a Methodist revival, he was converted in 1909.

"I never wanted anything but for the church to be the center of my life—to work in church music." For a little while he worked in a coal mine, and during World War I he was on the first lines for 22 days during the Battle of Meuse-Argonne in France. Twenty-two days in the same unwashed clothes. "If we'd taken them off, we could have stood them up," he said.

At Southwestern in 1921 there was only one building—Fort Worth Hall. McNeely and his wife Polly (Wayne Walker) moved into it. She taught piano at the seminary until shortly before her death in 1956.

Because he'd been in the army, faculty and students presumed he'd be tough, and appointed him head of the Goon Squad "to deal with Frank Norris." During Norris' heyday in Fort Worth, he would send his henchmen over to Seminary Hill to try to stir up trouble. And McNeely and his "squad" were to get rid of them. One such fellow stood on a school sidewalk, heckling passersby. McNeely told him to get off the walk. He wouldn't move.

"So what did you do?" I asked. He laughed then, and answered, "I knocked him off!"

He had finished high school in Oklahoma. He got Diploma of Gospel Music and BSM degrees at Southwestern and did graduate study at Union Seminary, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, TCU, Chicago Musical College, and Boguslawski College of Music (which awarded him an honorary doctorate in music.) Plus private lessons with distinguished musicians.

Together he and I. E. Reynolds wrote a musical drama, *Ruth*; he sang



Edwin McNeely

the part of Boaz. For 26 years he was bass soloist for the seminary's "Messiah" presentations. One of his prize belongings is a silver-plated six-shooter, gift from the Policeman's Chorus which he organized and directed in Fort Worth (they made him honorary captain.)

"The rhythm of words intrigues him, as well as the sound of music; he has written books, poetry, and hymns—including 'Thanksgiving Hymn,' 'New Life For You' (used during the Crusade of the Americas), and 'Soldiers of the King.' And Marilyn told me, 'When I was a child, we would read spoonerisms to each other.' She added, 'He's so comfortable to be with.'"

After Polly died, Dr. Mac in 1958 married Addie Wilson Gerald Heritage, a Mississippian who had been minister of music in Greenwood and Louisville and who was teaching in the music department at Southwestern. (His stepson, Robert Heritage, is a professor of music at East Central Junior College, Decatur.)

"What is your favorite hymn?" I asked the music man. "My very favorite," he said, is "He Lifted Me." Others he rates high are "I Know Whom I Have Believed" and "Blessed Assurance."

One of his former students was coming that afternoon, and Marilyn had baked a cake. I told him that I remembered with pleasure the one course that I took at Southwestern with him as teacher, and asked him if he could make a wild guess at how many students he may have taught in 40 years. "No, I don't know how many I taught," he said, "but I know my record was a good record, and I worked hard."

Letters to the Editor

"Don't drive drunk"

Editor:

My deepest appreciation for your recent articles and editorials on the drunk driving issue. The *Baptist Record* is to be commended for this effort to bring the national epidemic of drunk driving which killed more than 25,000 Americans last year to the attention of your readers.

In fact, we need to bring the startling statistics to everyone's attention that more Americans died at the hands of drunken drivers in the last two years than were killed in the Vietnam war. On the average, about three Americans are killed and 80 are injured by drunken drivers every hour. Safety experts say that one of every two Americans will be victimized by a drunk driver in his lifetime.

This slaughter which killed over a

Slide victims aided

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)—Southern Baptists have sent \$17,000 to help victims of a mudslide, which killed at least 55 and injured another 35 in a mining area on the Mano River near the western border of Liberia in early October.

The money will be used to provide food and housing for victims.

quarter-of-a-million Americans in the last decade must be dealt with forcefully. Many states are doing so. In 1982 alone, at least 27 states strengthened their drunk driving laws. Still others revamped their laws earlier.

I have proposed a tough, new drunk driving law for Mississippi. It would carry a 48-hour minimum jail sentence for a first offense, along with fines, license suspension, and restitution features. The penalties for second and multiple offenses increase dramatically, and one provision will allow prosecutors to charge drunk drivers who cause a fatality with a greater offense than presently allowed under the law. Special provision to deal with teenage drunk driving is also included.

The bill is a tough approach to dealing with a tough problem. Mississippi, unfortunately, has more than its fair share of those sobering statistics. We need public support for this bill when the 1983 legislative session convenes in January.

It is time that more than our words of warning are heard. Our laws need to clearly say: "Don't drive drunk!"

Dennis Dollar
State Representative
Gulfport

Dennis Dollar is a Baptist serving in the Legislature.—Editor

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Names In The News...

Mississippian Roy Williams, pastor of First Church, Kenai, Alaska, was elected president of the Alaska Baptist Convention at the 37th annual meeting in Moose Creek, Alaska. Williams served as second vice-president in 1980-81 and in 1981-82. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams are natives of Mississippi and came to Alaska in 1976 from a pastorate in New Mexico.

Williams is a graduate of William Carey College, Hattiesburg.

Eight Acteens of Mt. Olive Church at Coila were crowned queens in a recent recognition service. They were Leslie Cheatham, Stephanie Daves, Christi Farrish, Teresa Farrish, Chrystal Galey, Sheila Myers, Susan Trotter, and Lori Haggerty. Rhonda Tate was candle lighter for the service, and Chris Daves was crown bearer. Others who participated in the services were G.A.s Kim Daves, Tanya Mims, Becky Myers, Bridgett Daves, and Killi Daves. A reception followed the service. Irene Myers and Sylvia Mims are Acteens leaders, and Mrs. Nita Daves is WMU director.

Mount Gilead Church, Union County, had a dedication service Oct. 3 for an addition onto the church. Participating were Marvin Cox, associational director of missions, and Percy Ray, pastor of Myrtle Church and a former pastor. C. L. Garrison is pastor.

Dan West, manager of Central Hills Baptist Retreat, was scheduled yesterday for the last of his reconstruction surgery following an auto accident a year ago. He was to have the surgery performed at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

Carl Savell, pastor of Woodville Heights Church, Jackson, is home recuperating from a quadruple heart bypass.

D. L. Callender retired from pastorate in Louisiana, is available for interim work. He can be reached at 417 East Michigan Ave., McComb, Miss., 39648, phone 684-3084.

An appreciation supper for the pastor and the staff was held by Hebron Church, Grenada Association, Oct. 17. The pastor is William Cecil Foster. Bill Wilson is music director, and Sandra Williamson is secretary and organist. Legatha Boyette has been pianist for 15 years. Other tenures are Foster, three years; Wilson, one year; and Williamson, 2½ years.

The annual Deans' Conference for the extension center deans of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary was held recently at the Main campus of the seminary in Jackson. Hickman Johnson, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Richard Brogan, president of the seminary, conducted the conference. The main campus of the seminary is located at 3160 Lynch Street, Jackson. Both degree and non-degree programs of study are offered. The seminary began its 41st year with Fall classes.

Jerry W. Pounds is the new editor of youth materials in the youth section of the Sunday School Board's church training department. His primary editing assignment is Baptist Youth. Pounds was minister of youth at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., before moving to the board. Prior to that he was minister of family education at Riverside Baptist Church, Denver, Colo.

Robert Pannell was ordained as a deacon at Mount Gilead Church, Union County, Oct. 17. C. L. Garrison is pastor.

October 31 will be Miracle Day for Bassfield Church in Jefferson Davis Association. The offering for the day will go toward construction of a fellowship building. Lunch will be served at the church.

Woodward Church, Clinton, began a second Sunday School, Oct. 1. Times are 8:30 and 10:45 with worship service at 9:30. Fred Womack is pastor; Steve Stricklen is minister of education.

Kenneth Roberts is available for supply, interim, and pastorate preaching. For 12 years he was pastor of Monticello Church. He can be reached at Box 1127, Monticello 39654, phone 587-2529.

Daniel Grant, President of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., was the guest lecturer for the Spell Lectureship series Oct. 25-27 at Mississippi College.

The Dr. and Mrs. Howard E. Spell Lectureship was established in 1976 with the purpose of bringing to the campus outstanding Christian scholars. The event is an annual series where Mississippi College students are exposed to the knowledge and expertise of leading scholars in religion.

G.A. girls were recognized Oct. 10 for their involvement in the missions education organization at Grace Church, Vicksburg. Those honored were Martha Gatlin, Tina Tanksly, Angie Friley, Kathy Wright, Kim Wasson, Sandy Ott, Frances Martar, and Vickie Cummins. Tina Walley is G.A. leader.

Reception will honor Walker on retirement

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Walker will be honored by a retirement reception Nov. 21 at the Mt. Horeb Church in Lauderdale Association. The hosts will be the children of the couple. Walker has been in the pastoral ministry for 30 years and served eight churches in Mississippi.

Walker is presently pastor of the Arkadelphia Church in Lauderdale Association. He will retire Dec. 31 due to ill health.

Mt. Horeb Church is Walker's home church where he was licensed and ordained to the ministry. The reception will be from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Off The Record

Pastor: How did the assistant pastor do Sunday morning?

Member: It was a poor sermon. Nothing in it at all.

(Upon seeing the assistant pastor, the following conversation took place.)

Pastor: How did it go Sunday morning?

Assistant: Excellent, I didn't have time to prepare anything myself, so I preached one of your sermons.

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Maybank Mission organizes Oct. 31

Maybank Mission, which is sponsored by Rawls Springs Church, will be organized into a church on Oct. 31.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the speaker for the morning worship service. Following the service, lunch will be served at the church.

The organization service will be at 1:30 p.m. Bill Mitchell, pastor of the sponsoring church, will be in charge of the service and deliver the special message for the occasion.

Van C. Windham is the mission pastor.

The ideal environment does not guarantee perfect performance. Remember, Adam was in paradise when he fell. Vance Hanner

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Liberty Church rebuilds quickly

After a fire burned Liberty Baptist Church in Winston County to the ground in February, 1982, numbers of churches offered their facilities to the congregation.

Choosing to meet at Noxapater Baptist Church, the congregation dedicated itself to the rebuilding of their church. Winston County Association held fund raising opportunities and the church committee decided to raise \$197,000 to construct a new facility.

Director of missions Jerry Stevens contacted Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to ask about emergency assistance.

Kelly sent one of the board's double-wide trailers for a temporary house of worship and arranged for the

church to receive a check for \$2,500 in disaster relief.

The Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering had provided the trailer and the disaster money. Said Stevens, "Revival time came; the trailer was packed out each evening with people coming to worship. We saw, we touched, we felt missions in action in our county."

He added, "You see, missions had come to us; we were in need now."

Now the new building is about three-quarters finished. Pastor Herbert Nettleton said the church has raised most of the money already. They expect to complete the work by early December.

"And," said Stevens, "it is all because we Baptists can and do cooperate together."



Liberty church, which burned in February, meets in a mobile church provided by State Mission offering. The new building progresses at left.

Churches hold Harvest Days

Good Hope Church, Leake County, will celebrate Harvest Day Sunday, Oct. 31.

Paul Jordan, a former pastor, presently pastor of Mt. Zion Church, will preach at 11 a.m. worship.

There will be a fellowship meal at noon and a program planned for the afternoon. Curtis James is interim pastor.

Straight Bayou Church (Sharkey), will observe Harvest Day Nov. 7. Former pastor, C. A. Johnson of Oak Grove, La., will be the speaker at the 11 o'clock worship. Ken Turner of Eastside Church, Belzoni, will be in charge of the music at the morning worship and present a concert at 1:30 p.m. James K. Burke is pastor.

Temple, Hattiesburg, observes 75th

Temple Church, Hattiesburg, will mark its 75th anniversary with homecoming services on Oct. 31. That day will climax a special five-day anniversary revival Oct. 24 to 28 led by former pastors.

Delivering messages during the five-day revival were J. P. Murphy, both messages on Oct. 24; Kermit McGregor, Oct. 25; V. L. Stanfield, Oct. 26; D. Lewis White, Oct. 27; and J. Harold Stephens, Oct. 28.

The pastor, Harry L. Lucenay, will preach at the morning worship service on Oct. 31. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will speak at a 2:30 p.m. service on that day.

Revival Dates

Remah Church, McCall's Creek: Nov. 1-7; evangelist, Paul Ragland; Ed Wright, music director; services at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Terrell Stringer, pastor.

Trinity, Biloxi: Oct. 31-Nov. 3; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weeknights at 7:15; evangelist Joe Lovelady, pastor of Edgewater Church, New Orleans; music director Frank Barnes of Bay Vista Church, Biloxi; Joe Abel, pastor.

Raymond Road, Hinds-Madison: Oct. 31-Nov. 4; services at 7 p.m.; evangelist Jack Glaze, chairman of division of religion at Mississippi College; music evangelist Clayton Pope; Dan Watts, pastor.

Michael Memorial, Gulfport: Nov. 4-6; nightly at 7 p.m.; evangelist Ricky Edwards, pastor of Pass Road Church, Gulfport; pastor is Ellis Jones.

Centerville, Tylertown: Oct. 27-31; the Sunday morning service will be followed by dinner at church, then another worship service at 1:30 which will conclude the revival; evangelist David Frazier, pastor of Oak Grove, Prentiss; music director, Steven Mooneyham, pastor at Centerville.

Valley Hill, Carroll County: Oct. 31-Nov. 5; Sunday services 7 p.m.; Monday-Friday, 7:30 p.m.; evangelist George Stewart of Duck Hill; music evangelist, Bobby Shurden of Drew; nursery provided; James Gilbert, pastor.



Mt. Zion Church, Lincoln County, paid off its debt on its Action Center, Aug. 29. A dedication service was held Oct. 3 with the debt note burned by the finance committee. Dykes James, finance chairman holds a flame to the note watched by J. C. Smith; Randall Lofton; Floyd Britt; and Mike Everett, pastor.



First Church, Poplarville, recently broke ground for a new addition to their facilities. It will house educational, recreational, music, and administrative space. Those participating in the groundbreaking were members of the building committee and the church staff. Pictured left to right: Carl Myers; Dianne Stewart; Jack Regan; J. D. Batson; minister of music; Carlos Mizell, building committee chairman; Ron McCully, minister of youth and education; Evelyn Fowler; Alberta Pigford, and Joe Powell. The church is presently without a pastor.



RICHBURG CHURCH, Lamar Association, held groundbreaking services Sept. 26 for a new 5,000 square foot educational complex which will include classrooms, administrative offices, kitchen, fellowship hall, and library. Pictured are superintendent of construction, Roy Jones; pastor Richard Miley; and the congregation. A memorial service was held for the late John Leonard, a deacon, who was killed three days earlier.



Little's honored

Mr. and Mrs. Wylie Little have been honored by Locust Hill Church, Pontotoc Association, by having a day set aside in their honor. Mr. and Mrs. Little joined Locust Hill Church on Aug. 8, 1925. Mr. Little was elected as a deacon in September of 1931 and has served in that capacity since. Mrs. Little has been pianist for most of the 57 years they have been members of the church. The Little's son, Billy, is music director for the church. The senior Littles were given a gift and a plaque by the church and the community. Bill Bell is pastor of Locust Hill Church.

Amite River marks its 100th

Amite River Church, Mississippi Association, will celebrate its 100th birthday on Sunday, Nov. 7, with an 11 a.m. worship service.

Homecoming dinner on the grounds will follow, with a song service at 1:30 p.m. Mrs. Susan Tanner of Osyka will direct the music. Ken Trappnell is pastor.

Bible Book

Motivation for ministry

By Gene Henderson, pastor
Fairview, Columbus
II Cor. 5:11-6:10

Motivation often is the difference between success and failure. Every coach knows the importance of motivation. Often it is not the best team that wins, but the team that is more highly motivated.

Many know what they ought to do. However, the quality lacking is motivation. Paul was greatly motivated. He indicated some of the factors that motivated him in II Cor. 5:11-6:10.

I. Fear of the Lord 5:11-13

Some might consider fear an improper motive. Yet Paul is consistent with many in the Old Testament who accepted "fear of the Lord" as a motive for service (cf. Eccles. 12:13; Job 28:28; Prov. 1:7). "Reverence" is a good translation rather than "terror" or "fear." Children revere their fathers knowing that punishment awaits wrong doing and reward is the consequence of right conduct. Likewise God's children should revere him.

Paul's primary aim was to persuade men of the truth of the gospel. In order to do so he frequently had to persuade men regarding his own sincerity. Paul hoped his sincerity was known in the hearts of the Corinthians as it was by God (5:11). By emphasizing his ministry and sincerity Paul was not commending himself but giving the Corinthians a resource to counter the accusations of Paul's antagonists. Outward show and not inner integrity characterized the accusers (5:12). In verse 13 Paul seems to mean that God was the ultimate judge of Paul's integrity, but he appealed for the Corinthians to judge for themselves also.

II. Love of Christ 5:14-15

Paul was compelled by love. He may have meant love directed toward Christ because of all that Christ had done for him, or he may have meant the love that he had received from Christ. Either interpretation has merit. Paul loved the Lord because of the love the Lord had given him (cf. I Jn. 4:19).

The love of Christ not only kept Paul at the task of his ministry, it also kept him from being selfish in his ministry. Paul had died with Christ to himself (Gal. 2:20). It was Paul's conviction that everyone potentially died with Christ on the cross. A personal commitment to Christ must be made before Christ's death would be actualized in each life. However, when this commitment was made Christ would become the motivating center of that life.

III. A new creation 5:16-17

Paul was a "new creation." Therefore he refused to judge others who were in Christ on the basis of external appearance (after the flesh). "From the now" (5:16) indicates the contrast of Paul's present life with the "then" of his former life. Once he had evaluated Jesus on the basis of external matters (after the flesh) and concluded that he could not be the Messiah. He was wrong. Despite Christ's poverty, servant motif, and death, he was the Christ.

To be "in Christ" meant to enter a faith-union with Christ whereby unconditional surrender was made to Christ as Lord. By the creative power of God the man "in Christ" came to have a qualitatively different and superior life. A new center of life replaced the old attitudes, hopes, and motivations. Paul was motivated by what had happened to him and by the prospect of what likewise could happen to others.

IV. Commission as ambassador 5:18-6:10

All of Paul's preceding arguments (all these things) culminated in the thought of his ministry of reconciliation. God had reconciled Paul by his love and through the new creation. God also has commissioned Paul to continue the ministry of reconciliation (5:18).

"Ambassador" well expresses the role of a minister of reconciliation. He is both a messenger and a representative. He is the spokesman to whom God had given the word that God no longer holds man's sin against him (5:19). The plea of the messenger is then: "Be reconciled to God."

Verse 21 is a profound answer to the question, "Why should sinners be reconciled?" The sinless Jesus (Heb. 4:15) suffered the consequences of man's sin. Perhaps Is. 53:4, 5 provides the best interpretation of this difficult statement. God in Christ willingly identified with sinners to the point of sharing and bearing the price of their sins. Conversely, when sinners are identified with Christ they share his righteousness.

Paul urged the Corinthians to follow through with their responsibilities as ministers of reconciliation (6:1). The grace of God would be to no purpose or profit if they did not fulfill their ministry. He exhorted them also to conduct themselves in such a way as not to hinder or discredit the ministry (6:3). Christians must be careful that no one stumble because of them, but live in a way to commend the Christian life and themselves as servants of God.

Uniform

Unlikely speaker for God

By Charles S. Davis, associate
professor of Bible, MC
Numbers 22-24

God, in his sovereignty and his providence, often uses unlikely persons and nations to accomplish his purposes. There was a time when the nation of Assyria served as the rod of God's anger (Isaiah 10:5). On another occasion God called Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, "my servant" (Jeremiah 27:6). Cyrus, king of Persia, was called "God's anointed" (Isaiah 45:1). What God said concerning Cyrus would be just as appropriate in the other instances, for none of these acknowledged God's sovereignty: "I call you by your name . . . though you do not know me" (Isaiah 45:4).

Balaam, a renowned soothsayer from Mesopotamia, is unique in the Old Testament in that he was a non-Hebrew who was subject to the commands of Yahweh (Jehovah) and conscious of his instructions. Having made his reputation as a diviner and a professional curser, Balaam was certainly an unlikely candidate to be a spokesman for God.

I. Balak calls Balaam to curse Israel

After having defeated much of the territory bordering the Dead Sea and the Jordan River on the east, the army of Israel set up camp on the high plains of Moab, due east of Jericho. Balak, the king of Moab, feared that the people of Israel would conquer his nation, too. He sent messengers on a journey of some 400 miles to summon Balaam, who apparently had gained a wide reputation as an expert professional curser: "For I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed" (22:6).

When Balak's envoys arrived, Balaam delayed them until he consulted with the Lord. God first told Balaam that he must not go; but after a second trip and a more urgent appeal from the messengers, he was permitted to return with them to Moab. It may have been that Balaam wanted to go so much (he apparently was paid well) that his personal desires were confused with the voice of God. At any rate, he was commanded to speak only what God commanded him to speak.

The episode which follows of Balaam's debate with his donkey is a good example of Old Testament humor. The point that is made is that even a dumb animal had more spiritual perception than this world-renowned prophet who was on his way to curse Israel. The donkey could see the angel of the Lord standing in the roadway, but Balaam the prophet could not.

When Balaam finally reached Moab, elaborate preparations were made to have a curse pronounced upon Israel. Balak and Balaam went up to a high place called Bamoth-baal from which they could look down upon the tribes of Israel encamped below. They offered sacrifices upon seven altars. At least in Balak's mind they were exhausting every avenue to obtain a curse oracle.

II. God uses Balaam to bless Israel

Balaam withdrew from the place of the sacrifices to a spot where God told him what to say. He then returned to Balak and his princes, who were eagerly awaiting the words from his lips. To their consternation, however, he spoke not a curse but a blessing. He stated his inability to pronounce a curse upon the people of God: "How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed?" Balaam then gave a striking description in praise of the hosts of Israel. He concluded his oracle with a prayer that he might share in the glorious heritage of the sons of Israel: "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!"

Balak was furious when he saw that his carefully laid plans had gone astray. But he did not give up easily. Twice more he persuaded Balaam to accompany him to other spots, hoping that changes in location might accomplish the desired results. In each case, however, the strategy failed, for Balaam's curses were turned into blessings.

After his third oracle, Balaam proceeded to describe a distant and mysterious figure who would rise to crush Moab: "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh: a star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab . . ." (24:17).

The star and scepter are ancient symbols of royalty. This is obviously a reference to the coming of a king who would defeat the enemies of Israel. Although the immediate fulfillment of the prophecy was in David's defeat of Moab (II Samuel 8), Christian faith can see an ultimate fulfillment in the King whose power, victories, and sovereignty vastly transcend those of David. It is another way of saying that Jesus Christ must reign until he has put all enemies under his feet (I Corinthians 15:25).

It is important to note, in conclusion, that what Israel's enemies were not able to achieve—that is, to place a curse upon the nation—Israel brought upon herself when she immediately fell into flagrant acts of idolatry in the licentious worship of Moabite gods (Numbers 25).

Life and work

Keeping love foremost

By David McCubbin, associate
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I John 3:11-18; 4:7-21

Our unit is entitled "Growing in Faith and Love." In the first lesson of the unit I made the statement, "John writes to keep his readers believing and living the truth . . ." This truth was not a secret block of information available only to an elite group. The truth had to do with Jesus, the Christ. He was the incarnate son of God—the God who is light in contrast to darkness and love in contrast to hate. The truth was to be proclaimed openly so that anyone might believe it and live by it.

John keeps coming back to the idea that living the truth is loving. Our lesson for this week is keeping love foremost. Let's get at it this way: keep love foremost by 1) recognizing that love is commanded, 2) identifying love with Jesus, 3) putting love in practice and 4) experiencing the freedom love provides.

Recognizing that love is commanded (3:11-15)

"For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that ye should love one another" (v. 11). Compare this with I John 2:7-11. The "message" was more than a note or a brief word that love is the best way. It came as a commandment from the lips of the Lord. In essence love is the only way.

The fact that love can be commanded tells us a lot about its nature. So much of the time we place love in the area of attitudes and feelings that we can't control. If love was commanded then it means that a Christian, with God's help, can do something about it. In fact love is doing more than feeling.

John used one of his sharp contrasts in the example of Cain and Abel. Cain did not love and he murdered his brother Abel. I am reminded of John 3:20 "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light lest his deeds should be re-proved" (KJV). John explained that Cain murdered Abel because his deeds were evil and Abel's deeds were righteous (v. 12).

Christians are children of a righteous God and resemble him. They may be the objects of the world's hatred but they are to love in obedience to their Lord's command.

Identifying love with Jesus (3:16-18). "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us . . ." (v. 16). The supreme example of the love John wrote about was Jesus. It was seen in what Jesus did. He died for men. To love was to die for others.

This was love seen in its purest form. It is in extraordinary circumstances that individuals are called on to demonstrate love at its best.

However, the principle can be transferred to ordinary circumstances. We are to do what we can to help others in need. John made this transfer for his own day and circumstances: "But if any has this world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" (v. 17). John's day was not really different from our own. Closing our hearts to need means an absence of love.

Putting love in practice (4:7-12)

"Beloved let us love one another . . ." (v. 7). Love had been commanded. It had been pinpointed as to what it was by Jesus dying on a cross for men. Being told to love and being shown what it was, they were urged to practice it. They were to be sensitive to needs. They were to use their resources and abilities to meet needs where they were discovered. Love was to be action on behalf of others for after all God had taken action on behalf of their need.

Experiencing the freedom love provides (4:13-21)

"There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear . . ." (v. 8). If one puts love in practice in recognition that the Lord commanded it and in the spirit of his own example then there will be confidence concerning one's relationship to God.

Could it be that fear is the bedrock problem in our lives? That it is out of fear that we do not trust (exercise faith) in God. Failing to trust we go our own way—the essence of sin. By the gospel, we are led up the path of forgiveness to conquer sin, of belief to conquer distrust and love to conquer our fears. Oh what freedom there is to know with assurance that God loves me and although I have an awesome respect, I have nothing to fear. There can be no such exuberant elation, such sense of freedom, without loving (action) others in response to the cross.

Priceless page found

LONDON (EP)—A British scholar has discovered a priceless page from an eighth-century English Bible, the Ceolfrid Bible, wrapped around land records in a house in Dorset.

Dating from the year 713, the Ceolfrid Bible is considered one of the rarest and most ancient documents in the English language. A few pages from the Bible, originally intended as a gift for the pope, have survived and are a treasured exhibit at the British Library in London.